

Applicant : Klausmann et al.
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REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of January 24, 2005, Applicant submits the following remarks. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 9, 12, 15, and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-12 and 14-27 are now pending after entry of this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1-12 and 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The applicant has amended claims 1, 3 and 6 to remove reference to "patterned conductors". The applicant notes that claim 20 does not include a limitation to patterned conductors. In light of the claims as amended and as pending, the applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-12 and 14-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0197197 (Brown). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a device having a getter layer disposed on active components on a substrate. The getter layer consists essentially of an alkaline earth metal, aluminum, tantalum or zirconium.

The applicant's specification describes a device with a drying compound 114, such as barium oxide, calcium oxide or sodium oxide, on a cap 110 of the device (Fig. 1, page 3, lines 10-13). Other disclosed drying agents include zeolite or silica gel (page 3, lines 22-24). The Examiner recognizes that the specification does not disclose that it was known in the art to form a getter layer located in an active region of a device, where the getter layer is disposed on active components and comprises an alkaline earth metal, aluminum, tantalum or zirconium. For this, the Examiner turns to Brown.

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Brown describes an organic electronic device with an OLED region 116 on a substrate 110 and an adhesive layer 130 that attaches a barrier layer 120 to the OLED region 116 (Fig. 2, paragraph 0049). The adhesive layer 130 can include a getter material (paragraph 0073). Getter materials can be Group IIA metals and metal oxides, such as calcium, barium, calcium oxide and barium oxide (paragraph 0071). A getter layers can also be applied to the substrate layer 110 or the barrier layer 118 (*id.*).

Brown describes getter materials on the substrate 110 or the barrier layer 120. However, these getter layers are not disposed on the active components of the device. Brown also teaches that getter materials can be included within an adhesive layer 130 that contacts the OLED region 116. However, since this adhesive layer necessarily includes adhesive materials, the adhesive layer does not consist essentially of an alkaline earth metal, aluminum, tantalum or zirconium.

Thus, the applications of getter material to a device as disclosed by Brown do not suggest that a getter layer consisting essentially of an alkaline earth metal, aluminum, tantalum or zirconium should be disposed on an active component of the device. Consequently, the applicant submits that no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been made with respect to amended claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore allowable in light of the combination of the applicant's admitted prior art and Brown. Claims 2-12, 14-19 and 27 each depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are similarly not obvious.

Amended claim 20 is directed to an organic electroluminescent device. The device has an active region including OLED cells. A getter layer is disposed on the OLED cells. The getter layer consists essentially of one of an alkaline earth metal, aluminum, tantalum or zirconium.

As described above, neither the applicant's admitted prior art nor Brown suggests a getter layer disposed on OLED cells, where the layer consists essentially of one of an alkaline earth metal, aluminum, tantalum or zirconium. The applicant therefore submits that no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been made with respect to claim 20. Claims 21-26 depend from claim 20 and are not obvious for at least the same reason.

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Amendments to the Specification

A paragraph has been added to the specification that describes flash evaporation. The description can be found in U.S. Serial No. 10/242,068, which is incorporated into the present application by reference for all purposes. No new matter has been added.

No fee is believed to be due. Please apply any applicable charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

March 24, 2005

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